Creek Mission 23d Feb. 1844.

Dear Sir:

It was with much pleasure that I received a letter, a few months ago, from Mr. John Lloyd, a member of the Corresponding Committee of the Soc. of Inquiry — requesting me to become one of your correspondents, on the subject of Missions; especially in regard to the *Creek Indians*.

Although it is now three months since I received this communication, yet, owing to the great press of business, I have not felt justifiable in appropriating the time *to reply*, which the importance of the subject demanded. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining *faithful hands* to work, it becomes necessary for me to be almost constantly with the workmen, & also generally, to make a hand with them. — In this way my time has rolled rapidly past, leaving but little room for friendly correspondence, or even for my preparation for Sabbath exercises —

But as our building is nearly completed, & as I shall hence have more leisure in future, be assured it will give me much pleasure to become one of your correspondents by communicating whatever information may be considered important or interesting, concerning the poor deluded & long neglected Creeks. —

Having been once a member of your Society, it affords me much pleasure, to know that the Spirit of Missions is still with you, to believe that the "Redmen of the forest" are not forgotten, & to hope that we, as Missionaries among a part of them, are remembered in your prayers at the throne of grace. —

It is now about twelve months since we landed among this people. We came, to establish a Mission School among them, in accordance with an agreement entered into with the Chiefs, a year previous, by me in behalf of the Missionary Society. — For several years previous to our arrival, they have had no Missionary among them: — & still we are the only Missionaries in this great harvest field. Other denominations have applied repeatedly for admittance but have been refused, — with the remark that they had given us permission to establish a school, & they would wait, to see how we did, before they admitt any others. You will perceive from this circumstance that they are not very anxious to have preaching amongst them. This is however more the case with the Chiefs than with the common people. — In many neighbourhoods the people would rejoice to have a devoted Missionary settled among them, — but the chiefs being opposed no direct effort is made to obtain one. —

You are perhaps aware that during the last general Council, a very severe law was passed against preaching. It was passed however by a small part of the Chiefs, while those friendly to Christianity were absent; & consequently has been pretty much a dead letter from the first. But few of the native preachers & negroes have been deterred from holding their meetings; & as far as I can learn the law has been executed only in one or two instances. — At a late meeting of the Chiefs the law opposing the sale of ardent spirits within the nation, which was passed at the same time with the above, was declared void; & it is hence taken for granted by all that the law in opposition to preaching is annulled also. —

The nullification of the Liquor law or rather the refusal to enforce the law, is a sorrowful event to this people. It is said that almost every person who is able to purchase a barrel of whiskey has done so. They seem to be fully intent upon ruining themselves both soul & body. —

I intend as soon as practicable, to try an some the effect of the temperance pledge among them. Perhaps God may bless it, as an instrument for putting a stop to this wide spreading & desolating evil. — (In the Missy. Chronicle for Jan. 44 you will have noticed, the account of the Methodist & Baptist here to be quite encouraging. I was sorry to see it; because it was calculated to give a very false impression concerning the real state of the case. —

They may have that number of members in connexion with them, but it is feared that but few know anything of true religion. Their churches are conducted by a few blacks & Indians, who seem to know nothing of Christ. but the formalities of their own sect. — The Methodist receive any that will consent to give them their hand, & will admit them to full fellowship: & the Baptist receive all who consent to go under the water.)

Received March 18|44
Answered Oct. 15th 1845

Creek Agency Ark.
Feb 29th 1844

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To
The Corresponding Secretary
of the Committee on Foreign
Missions in the Theological
Seminary
Princeton
New Jersey.

Single.

P.S. Direct your letters to me "Creek Agency Ark."
N.B. There are four public schools soon to be established in this nation. Salary $600, with a school house & dwelling house furnished. The teachers to be appointed by Mr. Crawford, Supert. of Indian Affairs at Washington. This I consider a fine opening for brethren who wish to do this people good. They can preach at the schoolhouse.
RML

(All seem to believe that those who make the most noise in their meetings, have the most religion.) — Our neighbourhood school has been suspended during the fall & winter, but we hope to recommence it soon. I preach regularly every Sabbath; but the congregations are generally very small, — although of late they are increasing. We earnestly solicit an interest in the prayers of the members of the Soc. & also of all the brethren at the Monthly Concert. Brethren pray for us! Your's sincerely R.M.Loughridge